

OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

Welcome to the March Issue of OUR TOWN

As we enter March with snow on the ground, it isn't stopping our Town teams from looking towards the warmer months.

The Board of Selectmen and other committees are working towards the Annual Town Meeting which is on Monday May 1st, Parks and Recreation are looking for Counselors and Volunteers for their Summer Club and registration for their Summer Club also opens this month. You're invited to join in the Spring Clean Up for the town and we're welcoming back Open Space's Saturday Strolls. Read on for information on these topics and much much more.

If you are part of a Town board/committee/commission and would like to submit content for the April issue, please contact [Ruth Townsend](#).



VOL. 2, NO.3, MARCH 2023

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE...

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Board of Selectmen



In Brief

Community Center - At their February 9 2023 meeting, the Board of Selectmen reviewed the construction modifications that were discussed on November 21 2022. At that earlier meeting potential savings were estimated at \$750,000. The Board stipulated however that only modifications that could be made while keeping to the June 2023 STM date were to be pursued further.

At the meeting on February 9 2023, the Board agreed with the modification recommendations presented by the project architects. Savings totaled approximately \$330,000. Click [here](#) for the architect's presentation. Final construction documents have been prepared and published for online bidding on March 1st. Click [here](#) for the current project timeline. The project remains on schedule.

Town Meeting '23 Preparation - Working with specific Warrant Article sponsors, a working group of Town Officials and staff was able to reduce the number of articles to be presented at the May 1st Town Meeting. They also recommended that several purely housekeeping articles be considered for grouping that would allow those items to be approved in one vote. These changes increase the probability that our May 1st meeting can be conducted in one night.

The working group held a meeting on February 28th for article sponsors to review roles and responsibilities, meeting protocols, and provide a Q&A opportunity for all.

Look out for the Town meeting Warrant in your mail this week!

Town Meeting

BOS Membership Size - The Committee held its first meeting on February 27th. It was an organizational meeting where the committee reviewed the Warrant Article creating the committee, appointed a chairman, and discussed its role, planned activities and meetings.

Hale - Westwood and Dover officials continue to negotiate the terms of the conservation restriction with Hale. It is anticipated that the Boards of Selectmen in both towns will be discussing the matter in late March.

Town Administrator Search Update - In January the BOS retained Community Paradigm Associates, LLC ("Community Paradigm") to assist in the recruitment of our next Town Administrator. The goal is to complete the process and have a new Town Administrator on board by early summer. Community Paradigm is a consulting firm specializing in assisting communities with challenges that they face including recruitment.

The process the Selectmen will follow to fill this critical role is identical to the process conducted four years ago. The BOS will establish a seven-member screening committee comprised of one member of the BOS, designated as Robyn Hunter, a member of the town staff, a member of the school administration and the remaining four members from various town committees. The screening committee's purpose is to recommend two to three candidates from the pool of candidates to the BOS to interview.

Public input is important to this process, and the BOS encourages all residents to participate in the process by taking a survey created by Community Paradigm. The survey can be found by clicking [here](#) or by putting this link into your browser...<https://www.doverma.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=485>

The survey will remain open until March 6, 2023. (Cont. on next page)

In Depth

Board of Selectmen cont.



The BOS is meeting on March 1, 2023, to finalize the Town Administer Position Statement. Once this statement is approved active recruitment will commence. Regular updates to this process will be provided by Robyn Hunter at BOS meetings.

You can contact the Board of Selectmen about these matters and others and also find information on their meetings and how to join by Zoom by clicking [here](#)

Meet the Team

This week we meet two of the interim team supporting the Town.

Carl F. Valente

Although Carl is Interim Town Administrator (for the second time) and has been the Acting Finance Director for the Town for the past four years, he considers himself 'retired' from municipal government. Carl retired from the Town of Lexington, after having served as Town Manager for 13 years. He also served as Weston's first Town Manager for four years and Needham's Town Administrator for 13 years including two years as the Director of Finance. Finally, Carl served as the Section Chief for Technical Assistance for the Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services and the Director for Financial Management for the International City/County Management Association.



Carl

Note from Carl.....

Want to have a voice in and learn more about how your Town government works? Join your neighbors at Town Meeting on Monday, May 1 at 7 p.m. at the Dover Sherborn Regional High School, Mudge Auditorium. Hope to see you there. If it's the first time you are attending Town Meeting, please introduce yourself and tell me what you think about Town Meeting.

*Reach out to my office...
any time with questions or concerns about Town Government, services, programs or you're not sure where to get the answer.*

Town Meeting

Marc Waldman

Marc was appointed Interim Treasurer/Collector in December, 2022 and will serve in that position until a permanent Treasurer/Collector is appointed. He has been retired for a little more than two years, having previously served as Wellesley's Treasurer/Collector for over 32 years. Prior to Wellesley, Marc worked for the City of Dover, DE and the Town of Concord, MA.

Marc and his team handle questions regarding Real Estate and Motor Vehicle Excise tax billings and payments. They also handle all payroll and benefit programs for Town employees and retirees.



Marc

*Ask me about...
Real Estate and Motor Vehicle Excise tax billings and payments*

Planning Board

Planning Board Update

The Planning Board will be sponsoring two articles at the May 2023 Town Meeting:

- a revised flood plain bylaw
- and a change to the current Accessory Dwelling Unit bylaw.

Town Meeting

Prior to the March 13 Open Hearing, the bylaws and presentation material will be on the Planning Board's webpage. They invite you will take a look, attend the Open Hearing, and contact them with your thoughts.



The Planning Board would also like to thank the 30 residents who attended the Tree Preservation workshop February 4. They plan to have that material on their website in March.

Open Space

Vernal Pool Saturday Stroll

Where: Guided Walk - Private Property on Pine Street

When: April 1st, 10:30 am to noon

Free but please Register:

(parking information will be e-mailed to registrants Friday 3/31)



pool of water surrounded by trees

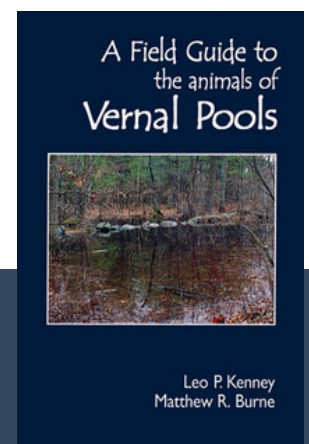
You are invited to join this special guided walk with professional wetlands scientist Paul McManus of EcoTec, organized by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC). The walk will take you through private land off Pine Street on Snow Hill to view the many certified vernal pools. This special property is permanently protected by a Conservation Restriction (CR). The generous landowner will also be attending!

The walk will not be too strenuous but will be over uneven and wet ground. Wear rubber boots to approach the vernal pools. Bring polarized sunglasses to see into the water as well as walking sticks, binoculars and cameras. Kids are welcome!

The walk will take place in misty rain to shine. Sorry, NO dogs this time.

Learn more about vernal pools by clicking here and here.

This book will be available to purchase on the walk \$12 (at cost)



Police



Police Chief in uniform by tree

Chief McGowan

Dover Police Chief to Retire

The Board of Selectmen recently received notice from Chief of Police Peter McGowan of his intent to retire from the Dover Police Department. It is anticipated that the Chief will continue in his position until a replacement can be found: that process should be completed on or before September 1, 2023.

Chief McGowan began his career as a part time officer and dispatcher for the town of Millis in 1994, coming up through the ranks as a patrolman, D.A.R.E. Officer, Sergeant, and then Chief in 2004. In 2011, he was selected as Dover's fifth Chief of Police.

During his tenure in Dover, he has been an active member of our community, especially enjoying his relationships with the schools and the Council on Aging. He serves on the Executive Board of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, as well as the President of the Norfolk County Chiefs of Police Association. In addition, he has been an active member of the FBI National Academy Associates since his graduation from Session #231 in Quantico Virginia in 2007.

The Chief is grateful for the support that the Dover PD has received over the years, and most grateful to have worked with such an outstanding group of law enforcement professionals.



Board of Health

Rabies Clinic - Saturday, March 25, 2023

When: 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

Where: Dover Highway Department/Town Garage, 2 Dedham Street, Dover

\$15.00 per vaccination for each dog and cat (cash only)

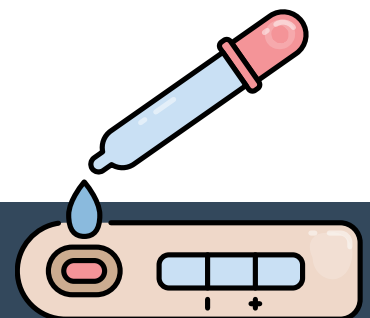
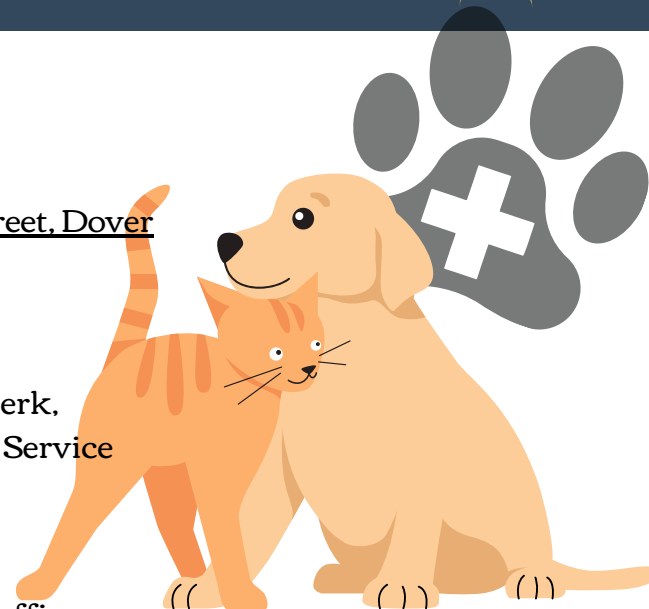
The Dover Town Clerk will also be licensing Dover dogs for 2023

This event is sponsored by the Dover Board of Health, the Town Clerk, along with Dr. Christina Poor and the Norfolk County Veterinary Service in Walpole, Massachusetts

Free Covid Tests

Free COVID-19 rapid test kits are available in the Board of Health office Monday-Thursday 9 AM-3 PM for Dover residents.

Did you know the Town has a COVID-19 page? Click [here](#) for the most up-to-date COVID-19 news from the Board of Health.



Schools

High School Athletics - Winter Season Results

- The boys basketball team finished the season with a record of 16-4, currently ranked **#7** in the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) D3 tournament, and won the Tri-Valley League (TVL) Small Title. The girls basketball team finished the regular season with a record of 14-6, ranked **#3** in the MIAA D3 tournament, and earned the TVL Small Title for the first time in school history! See Team championship pictures below taken after the teams defeated Medway on Valentine's Day in a doubleheader night of games. Congratulations to senior basketball captain Luke Rinaldi, on becoming the 10th player in school history and the first since 2006 to score 1,000 points as well!
- The boys Alpine team won the Mass Bay East League for the second year in a row. The girls Alpine team is ranked 2nd overall for the season. The team combined for the best boy/girl combo in the league, and they'll race in the MIAA state race at Berkshire East after the February school break.
- The girls Nordic team finished 4th in the Mass Bay East League, and the boys Nordic team finished 7th in the league. Both teams competed at the MIAA state race in Vermont.
- The girls swim and dive team finished 4-3 on the regular season, placed 4th at the TVL Showcase Meet, and will compete at sectionals and states throughout the next two weeks. The boys swim and dive team finished 3-3-1 on the regular season, placed 4th at the TVL Showcase Meet, and will compete at sectionals and states throughout the next two weeks.
- The boys indoor track and field team finished 4-1 on the regular season, placed 3rd at the TVL Showcase Meet, and competed at D5s and All States in February. The girls indoor track and field team finished 3-2 on the regular season, placed 6th at the TVL Showcase Meet, and competed at D5s and All States in February.
- The gymnastics team is 4-2 for the season, won the TVL Showcase Meet on Saturday, February 11th, and then moved on to MIAA regionals and states in late February.
- The girls ice hockey team is 4-11-2 on the season, and is ranked **#29** in the MIAA D1 tournament. The boys ice hockey team is 5-11 on the season, and is ranked **#23** in the MIAA D4 tournament. A team qualifies for the MIAA tournament for basketball and hockey with a top 32 ranking or a .500 record.



Boy in basketball vest in gym holding chocolate bar and basketball

Luke Rinaldi



group of students and coaches in gym

Girls Basketball Team



group of students and coaches in gym

Boys Basketball Team

Spring sports sign ups are open on Family ID for all high school student athletes who would like to play a Spring sport. The Spring season starts on Monday, March 20th.

SIGN UP

Parks and Recreation



COA

Just two of the many events offered by the COA this month and open to all... for information on the other events follow the link below to their digital newsletter

The History of Howard Johnson's, with Anthony Sammarco

Friday, March 10, 10:30-11:30am at the Great Hall, Dover Town House, 5 Springdale Ave

Howard Johnson created an orange-roofed empire of ice cream stands and restaurants that stretched from Maine to Florida, and all the way to the West Coast. The attractive white Colonial Revival restaurants, with eye-catching porcelain tile roofs, illuminated cupolas and sea blue shutters, were described in "Reader's Digest" in 1949 as the epitome of "eating places that look like New England town meeting houses dressed up for Sunday." Boston historian and author Anthony M. Sammarco recounts how Howard Johnson introduced twenty-eight flavors of ice cream, the "Tendersweet" clam strips, grilled frankforts and a menu of delicious and traditional foods that families eagerly enjoyed when they traveled. Books are available for purchase for \$20.00 cash or check.

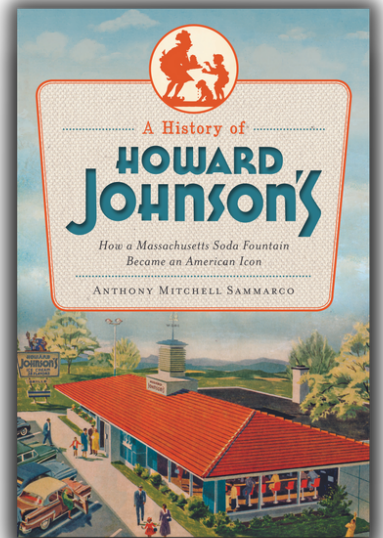


Image of front of book, 'A History Of Howard Johnson's'

Talk with the Town

Meet Chickering Principal - Dr. Deb Reinemann (Pictured left)
Friday, March 17, 10:30-11:30am at the Great Hall, Dover Town House
Join us to talk with Chickering Principal Deb Reinemann for an update on innovative teaching and learning experiences for Dover students. Learn how the school partners with the COA to benefit both students and seniors. Light refreshments provided.



Lady, smiling, in black and white dress with red scarf



Click here to
sign up
for the COA
newsletter

Library



Recycling Committee

April is Spring Clean-up Month for Dover's streets and parks.

The Dover Recycling Committee, in conjunction with the Highway Department, is planning the annual Dover Clean-Up for the whole month of April! This community event promotes street and property clean up.

In 2022, 400 town residents participated in this effort. 2023's goal is to once again have 100% of the 159 streets and many parks cleaned-up. All Dover residents are invited to help achieve this goal by signing up for a street that is important to you. All local clubs and organizations are encouraged to join in the cleanup. Help with a section of our main through-streets where roadside trash is greatest and consider checking it all year round.

The condition of most bottles and cans makes them unacceptable at recycling centers so it will not be necessary to separate trash from recyclables. The Recycling Committee will supply bags and arrange for street safety signs to be posted.

Registration is easy. Click [here](#).

This event is supported by Dover's Parks & Recreation Commission.



Recycling Committee cont.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal March 25 in Medfield

Dover collaborates with nine other local communities to facilitate the safe and sustainable disposal of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). Each town has certain days designated when residents can bring in household hazardous waste items for disposal. Medfield is sponsoring one on March 25. Get your items ready! While each town has slightly different restrictions, household hazardous waste typically falls into five categories:

- Automotive
- Cleaning and polishing
- Oil based paint and related solvents
- Pesticides
- Miscellaneous items:
 - Batteries
 - Fingernail polish remover
 - Some cosmetics
 - Shoe polish

Dover residents must get an authorization slip in advance at the [Dover Town Garage](#) (2 Dedham Street), Monday through Friday between 1 pm and 4 pm, to gain access to a particular town's facility for disposal of their household hazardous waste.

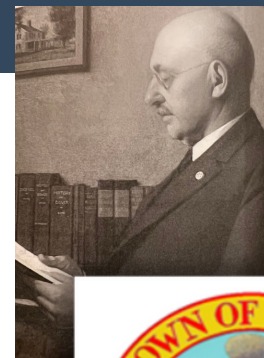


Dover History

The Town Seal

Have you ever noticed our Town Seal and the images on it?

It was designed by Frank Smith, noted Dover Historian and educator and adopted in 1894. Each element is based on the history of the Town. The central building is the first Meeting House, to its left is the school house built beside the meeting house in 1762. The stream of water represents Trout Brook and signifies 'Springfield', the name given to this area by the early Dedham settlers. Two Native Americans are shown on the right standing at the foot of Pegan Hill, signifying that this was once their home, and the elevation at the left represents Pine Rock Hill. The plough and the sheaf of corn resting upon the shield represent the leading industry in Dover at that time.



Frank Smith

Man in suit looking at a book, with a row of books behind him



State Representative



lady in blue jacket

Denise Garlick
State Representative


2023

Report to the Community


WATCH VIDEO



Save the Date



Town of Dover Massachusetts



CAUCUS

Meeting at which candidates for town office are nominated.
Monday, March 6, 2023
Great Hall, Town House 7:30 PM

OPEN
HEARING

Warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting are reviewed.
Monday, March 13, 2023
Great Hall, Town House 7:30 PM





ANNUAL
TOWN
MTG.

Final warrant articles for the town are voted on.
Monday, May 1, 2023
DSRS Mudge Auditorium 7:00 PM

Please visit www.doverma.gov for more information

Click here for a list
of the upcoming
Committee
meetings in March

March Quick Links

-  Learn more about Town Meeting. [LEARN MORE >](#)
-  Interested in serving on a volunteer board/committee/commission? Click to learn about the process and vacant positions. [LEARN MORE >](#)
-  Learn about the new Water Restriction Bylaw and Water Restriction Enforcement Bylaw Policy. [LEARN MORE >](#)
-  See the dates for upcoming meetings and agendas for the Board of Selectmen and and Town Committees. [LEARN MORE >](#)

Want to contribute to April's newsletter?
Please submit content to [Ruth](#) by March 18.

Click below to stay updated on Town news